



Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III

Lectured at Siena on January 22, 2004

“Education and Faith”

As President of The College at Old Westbury, Dr. Butts works continuously to create an invigorating atmosphere dedicated to academic excellence and the development of leadership qualities in students. Through its broad multidisciplinary liberal arts programs, the College confers degrees in more than 40 majors leading to Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Professional Studies degrees.

Since being named Old Westbury's President in September 1999, Dr. Butts has reinvigorated one of the most diverse public college campuses in America. He is determined to prepare Old Westbury students to succeed in the global marketplace while fostering in each leadership qualities that will prove valuable to both themselves and the communities in which they live. In working to enable Old Westbury to achieve its fullest potential, Dr. Butts has guided the campus as it has grown its enrollment, added additional full-time faculty, and expanded the services it provides to support and aid students. Under his direction, the College has also invested nearly \$2 million in the past two years in cutting-edge technologies – adding presentation classrooms, new computer labs, wireless internet access, and videoconferencing capabilities. Further, he is leading the College as it adds new residence halls, the first of which opened in early 2003, and a new Student Union, which opened later in 2003.

A native of New York City, Dr. Butts earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. He returned to New York and earned a Master of Divinity Degree in Church History from the Union Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry in Church and Public Policy from Drew University. He has taught Urban Affairs and served as an Adjunct Professor in the African Studies Department at City College, New York. He has also taught Black Church History at Fordham University. Dr. Butts has given numerous lectures and speeches at colleges and universities across the nation.

Along with his Presidency at the College at Old Westbury, Dr. Butts continues as pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in the City of New York – among the most historic Baptist churches in the nation. Under his leadership, Abyssinian Baptist Church is committed to playing an active role in the ongoing development of its New York City home. Dr. Butts also serves as President of the Council of Churches of the City of New York, Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of United Way of New York City, and as a member of the leadership boards of the September 11th Fund, the Boy Scouts of America, Theodore Roosevelt Council, the American Baptist College and the Community Development Corporation of Long Island.

He is the Chairman of the National Affiliate Development Initiative of the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS (BLCA) and a founding member of the organization's Board of Commissioners. He has served as President of Africare, an independent organization dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life in rural Africa. Dr. Butts has been presented with honorary degrees from The City College of New York; Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama; Claflin College of Orangeburg, South Carolina; Dillard University, New Orleans, Louisiana; Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania; and Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut.